

California GARDEN

MARCH-APRIL 1998

Volume 89 No. 2

\$1.50



KATE SESSIONS

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

MARCH 2

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM
Andre Gray, Designer. The Courtyard, Rancho Bernardo. Mon. 12:30PM. 760/749-1920. \$8.

MARCH 10

***SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**
Bulrush Basket. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Natural Material Basket. Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. Call 232-5762. \$20 plus \$5 for Materials.

MARCH 13-15

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
"Jungle Gems" 52nd Annual Orchid Show & Plant Sale. Scottish Rite Memorial Center, Mission Valley. Fri. 6-10PM; Sat. 9AM-6PM; Sun. 9AM-4PM 619/295-9262. \$5.

MARCH 14

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE, Landscape & Nursery Tech. Dept. South Bay Garden Show. 900 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. Exhibits. Sat. 10AM-3PM. 421-6700 X5371. At back of campus, park in lot E.

CALIFORNIA NATIVESCAPES BOTANICAL GARDEN Guided Tour. 8 Plant Communities. San Diego Wild Animal Park. Sat. 10AM. 592-9782. Park Admission.

THE ARBORETUM OF L. A. COUNTY
Annual Environmental Education Fair. 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Sat. 9AM-4PM. 626/447-8207. Admission \$5.

MARCH 14-15

THE HUNTINGTON 1998 Pasadena Garden Club Flower Show. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Floral Creations. Sat. & Sun. 10:30AM-4:30PM. 626/405-2100. Free with Admission.

DESCANSO GARDENS 50th Anniversary Celebration of Camellia Reticulata. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada, Flintridge. Information 213/344-8805. Reservations \$12

MARCH 20-21

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Fourth Standard Flower Show. Performing Arts Center, CalPoly Campus, San Luis Obispo. "Celebrating the Arts". Sat. 10AM-5PM; Sun. 10AM-3PM. 805/541-1532. Free.

MARCH 20-22

SANTA BARBARA INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW, INC. 53rd Annual Show. "Circus of Orchids". Earl Warren Showgrounds Exhibit Bldg. Fri. 10AM-6PM; Sat. 9AM-6PM; Sun. 9AM-5PM. 805/644-8413. \$6.

MARCH 21

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & SAN DIEGO MASTER GARDENER ASSOC. "Learn To Grow" University City High School, 6949 Genesee Ave. Home Gardening Seminar. Sat. 8AM-4PM. 694-2860. Four Classes \$28 or \$7 per Class.

MARCH 21-22

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL San Diego Chapter 119, 30th Annual Flower & Cultural Arts show. Demonstrations. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat & Sun. 11AM-4:30PM. Free.

MARCH 28-29

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY "Orchid Festival" Show & Sale. San Marcos Community Center, 3 Civic Center Dr., San Marcos. Sat. Show Noon-5PM (Sale 10AM); Sun. 10AM-4PM. \$3.00. Children under 12 free.

THE HUNTINGTON 41st California Bonsai Society Annual Show. 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Sat & Sun. 10:30AM-4:30PM. 626/405-2141 General Admission.

APRIL 1

KATE SESSIONS STATUE DEDICATION. El Prado & Balboa Dr. (near 6th & Laurel). 10-11:30AM. San Diego Historical Society.

APRIL 1-30

BUDS 'N' BLOOMS (see article with this title)

APRIL 4-5

EXOTIC PLANT SOCIETY 20th Show & Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-5PM. Free.

APRIL 6

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM, June Wood Designer. The courtyard, Rancho Bernardo. Mon. 12:30PM. 760/749-1920. \$8.

APRIL 11

CALIFORNIA NATIVESCAPES BOTANICAL GARDEN Guided Tour. 8 Plant Communities. San Diego Wild Animal Park. Sat. 10AM. 592-9782. Park Admission. **THIS TOUR REPEATED MAY 9TH.**

APRIL 11-12

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY 70th Rose Show & Sale. Balboa Park Club, Balboa Pk. Sat. 1-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Admission fee.

APRIL 14 - 21 - 28

***SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**
Contemporary Flower Arranging, V. West Instr. Casa del Prado, Balboa Pk. Bring Materials.

(continued on page 36)



Published by
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for 88 Years

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Jean E. Johns

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Marianne D. Truby

AFFILIATE LISTING EDITOR

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VOLUME 89

NUMBER 2

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FRONT COVER painting by Anni Baldaugh of Katherine Olivia Sessions (1857-1940). It has been called an "impressionistic portayal."

BACK COVER drawing by Virginie Fowler Elbert of *Casasetum saccatum*.

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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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Tues. 9:30AM-2:30PM. 232-5762. Series \$40.

APRIL 17-26

THE HUNTINGTON Rose Festival.

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. Tour, Talks, Sale. Weekdays Noon-4:30PM; Weekends 10:30AM-4:30PM. 626/405-2141. General Admission.

APRIL 18

★**FLOWER ARRANGERS GUILD OF SAN DIEGO** Flower Show. "As We Like It" Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 10AM-4PM. Free.

APRIL 18-19

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION 72nd Flower Show. Spreckels Park, Coronado. Sat. 1-5:30PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. 1-800-622-8300. \$2.

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB 17th Standard Flower Show. Valley Center Middle School, 28102 N Lake Wohlford Rd. Valley Center. Sat 1:30-5:30PM; Sun. Noon-4PM. Free.

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB Flower Show & Plant Sale. Avenida de Acacias/La Granada. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM.

SAN CLEMENTE GARDEN CLUB Annual Flower Show & Sale. San Clemente Comm. Ctr., Seville and Del Mar. Demonstrations, music, food. Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 11AM-5PM. 714/369-1151.

APRIL 21

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Quarterly Dinner/Program. Vincent Lazaneo, Horticultural Advisor, UC Coop. Ext. "Plants Above & Below the Ground". Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tues. 5:45PM. Check \$5. Door \$7.

APRIL 24

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB 10th Annual Spring Gardens on Tour. 5 Private Gardens Poway-Rancho Bernardo. Fri. 10AM-3PM. 487-6661 Information. \$5.

APRIL 24-25

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY Annual Spring Show. Woodland Hills Promenade Mall, 6100 Topanga Cyn., Blvd., Woodland Hills. Fri. Noon-9PM; Sat. 9AM-5PM.

APRIL 25-26

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB 67th Annual Flower Show & Plant Sale. 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook. Sat. 2-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. Free.

FULLERTON ARBORETUM Annual Green Scene Garden Show. 1900 Association Rd. Fullerton. Sat. 9AM-4PM. Sun. 10AM-4PM. \$5.

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB Spring Show. Casa del Prado Rm 101, Balboa Pk. Sat. & Sun 10AM-5PM. Free.

APRIL 30 - MAY 3

ART ALIVE 17th Annual Arts, Floral Design & Lectures. S. D. Museum of Art, Balboa Pk. Thurs. 11AM-4:30PM; Fri/Sat/Sun. 9AM-4:30PM. Entrance fee non-Museum-members, lectures and/or gourmet lunch, fee.

MAY 1-3

"**SAGE & SONGBIRDS FESTIVAL**" Butterflies Release, Private Habitat Garden Tours. Alpine. CHIRP Project. 445-8352. Event Free, Tour \$10.

MAY 2-3

SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Show & Plant Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 1-5PM; Sun. 11AM-4PM. Free.

MAY 6

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour Bell Gardens, Valley Center & Two North County Nurseries. 232-5762. Incl. Lunch \$30.

ONGOING EVENTS

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat & Sun 9AM. 486-7238.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter 231-SHOE. Free.

DESCANSO GARDENS La Canada, Flintridge Calandar of Events 213/344-8805.

F.Y.I. DESERT WILDFLOWER HOT LINE Anza Borrego Desert State Park 619/767-5311.

BALBOA PARK: ONGOING PROGRAMS

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

(by Organ Pavilion) Docent Tours Tues., Fri., Sat., Sun. Open 10AM-4PM. 232-2780. Donation.

SAT. OFFSHOOT TOURS One Hr. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. 235-1121. Free.

WED. INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger Guided. Meet Visitors Center. Noon. 235-1121. Free.

Deadline for submission to

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for May/June issue is March 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

[To persons wanting mention of an organization's event: Do not depend on the information reaching us from some other source. Even though opening times, etc., may not be firmed up, let us know in a timely manner (sometimes as much as 75 days ahead) that an event is upcoming. You can let us know a little later of additional information (see example directly above).

J. Coleman]



Jungle Gems

THE 52ND ANNUAL ORCHID SHOW & PLANT SALE March 13-15, 1998



Lose yourself in the exotic and unusual world of orchids at the oldest and most prestigious Orchid Show and Plant Sale in San Diego. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to travel through nature's most spectacular display of beauty and wonder.

Show Schedule

Friday, March 13	6pm-10pm
Saturday, March 14	9am-6pm
Sunday, March 15	9am-4pm

Admission

\$4.00 / Advance
\$5.00 / Door
Children under 12 / FREE

Scottish Rite Memorial Center

1895 Camino del Rio South ❖ San Diego, CA 92108

For more information, contact Bud Close, 1998 show chairman at (619) 444-8839.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY



Gleanings . . .

KEEPING DATES . . .

Because most of the dates in the United States are grown nearby in Coachella Valley, they are commonly found in our markets. Just like most fruit they need to be refrigerated and will last up to 3 weeks if kept in an airtight container. Some dates have more moisture than others. The best way to keep them for a long period is to freeze them. Unlike other fruits, freezing does not ruin the taste.

Dates are the oldest known cultivated tree crop. They are very high in vitamins and minerals. Dates can be grown from the seeds, but every plant will be different. The only way to propagate a variety is to use the offshoots produced near the base of the tree trunk. The offshoot must be 3 to 4 years old before being moved (in early Spring). Then it takes five years for the plant to produce dates. The date is a dioecious plant—separate male and female plants. Commercial growers plant one male palm for 48 female palms. For some reason, dates cannot pollinate themselves here and must be hand pollinated in March.

GINSENG . . .

Ginseng is a famous Chinese cure-all medicinal plant that is becoming popular in this country. The root is consumed in soups and salads or dried and powdered for use in teas. Several species are known but most of the Asians prefer the American variety claiming that it is sweeter and has more “yin” (heat reducing capacity). Twelve hundred metric tons are exported yearly. Some is cultivated and some is collected from the wild. Research is being conducted on

ginseng, but pharmacological effects are inconclusive.

SUPERTREES . . .

Researchers are trying to lab-engineer supertrees. So far they have been able to produce hardier trees but slow growing. Fast growing specimens aren't hardy. Also, some trees that seem to be successful require special feeding, pruning, pest control, etc., which makes them too expensive to produce. So far scientists have been unable to identify the genetic markers—that means they don't know the gene—that makes a tree taller, hardier, etc. The growers most interested in research are the paper and timber companies because it takes 20 to 30 years to produce a tree for harvest. The industry scientists believe that they can change this to 10 years by isolating the growth gene. Other experts believe that the best method will be to keep on picking the best seeds, and properly planting and caring for the tree. “You can't fool Mother Nature.”

THE STAPLES . . .

A staple food is one that provides the dominant part of the diet and supplies the major portion of energy and nutritional needs. These are the staple foods of:

China & Japan: millet, rice, soybean

Indonesia: rice, yam

India: Rice

Central Asia: rye, wheat

Middle East: barley, lentil, rye, wheat

Europe: oats, wheat

Africa: millet, sorghum, teff, wheat, yam

S. America: cassava, potato, sweet potato

Central America: maize, potato

It is interesting that although there are over 50,000 types of edible plants rice, maize and wheat provide 60% of the world's food.

BIRD OF PARADISE . . .

In June 1925 Kate Sessions returned to San Diego from Paris with 18 Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) seeds. Only 12 grew. By 1929 three of the plants bloomed.

The plant is native to South Africa and in their native habitat there is a bird that lands on the flower and pushes the pollen bearing stamen down on the pistil thereby pollinating the plant. We don't have any such bird here, but KOS recommends that we can take the bird's place by pressing down on the flower, exposing the stamens and make sure it is in contact with the pistil. In this way, seeds will be produced by your plants. It takes seed about three years to develop the first flower, so most of us just get an axe or sharpened shovel and cut the clump into pieces when we want to start new plants.

Even though she felt she had to start her plants in the lathhouse, it wasn't long before Kate Sessions was growing them outdoors and was introducing another beautiful plant for San Diegans' gardens.

Many plants line Harbor Drive and for months the brilliant flowers beautify the street.

Did you know that there are several flowers inside the purplish green bird-like structure of the flower? Just immerse a flower head in deep warm water for a few minutes to soften the gelatinous sealing material, and with a fingernail slowly ease a flower out.

BUDS 'N' BLOOMS A CELEBRATION OF BALBOA PARK

by Marianne Truby

DURING THE ENTIRE MONTH of April 1998, the museums, flower organizations, and the Balboa Park section of San Diego Park and Recreation Department will cooperate to **SHOWCASE** the flora and fauna of all areas of Balboa Park. This botanical celebration has been brought about by unanimous vote of the representative groups to recognize and publicize this unique and beautiful area in the center of San Diego.

While most of the eighty plus park organizations regularly publicize the park by holding special events—never before have all worked together to promote the Park Grounds, which are their home and provide their truly unique setting. Frequently museums are located in metropolitan areas, rarely located in a park setting housing so many types of enjoyment as here in San Diego. We are all truly grateful to those that contributed to this jewel.

A statue of Kate Sessions, who was known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," will be unveiled on April first, 10:00AM, at the southwest corner of the intersection at the west side of the Cabrillo bridge [east of Sixth and Laurel corner]. A special display of her efforts will be on display in the Museum of San Diego History. The San Diego Floral Office and Library as always will be open to the public Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bound copies of *California Garden* magazine containing her writings and paintings of her pioneering park plantings are also on display.

San Diego is a year-around delight for gardeners and horticulturists and April is a time when early flowering plants and shrubs will show the park to great advantage. As usual the month will end with its yearly **ART ALIVE** presentation at the Museum of Art. The Rose Garden will display its spring bloom and the aloes in the Cactus Garden will continue to bloom. The native trail will be green from the spring rains.

Of particular interest to us all and sure to astound and delight the visitors will be the unusual and beautiful horticultural splendor of the "World Famous San Diego Zoo." The rare and unusual plants from all areas of the world used to provide a native habitat for the exotic, rare, and endangered species is truly a phenomenon and awesome to see. The staff of the Zoo maintain and continue to add new materials to enhance the beauty of the exhibits and have a collection of

unique specimens guaranteed to astound all. We also are privileged to benefit from the experience of staff members, who share their knowledge and expertise through classes and special informational seminars. Garden clubs are encouraged to tour the facilities and special events are supported. Special flower shows will occur during April in Casa del Prado and other exhibit areas in the park. The Botanical Building as always will be alive with special planting and best of all the permanent planting and flowering trees will be blooming.

The many museums in the park have large staffs of volunteer workers who spend many hours each month in the park and are well aware of the special place it has in the life of those who live here. The buses of school children that are encouraged to visit the various museums, the Children's Theater, the Youth Symphony, and the ballet classes all add life to the park. When we are able to follow these interests all located in one beautiful setting, we need to recognize how special it is and show our appreciation to those that have continued to support and maintain this oasis of knowledge and beauty.

I enjoy traveling and visiting gardens afar, and always the best part of the journey is returning home to San Diego to revel once again in its great beauty!□

Marianne Truby has lived and gardened at her home in Chula Vista since 1955.

GROUND PREPARATION/WEED CONTROL

SOIL SOLARIZATION is a nontoxic technique used in our climate to control soil-borne pests such as nematodes.

To be effective in our area, water the planting-area to a depth of 2 feet.

Water again two days later.

Cover the area with clear plastic that is at least one mil thick, and seal the edges securely with soil.

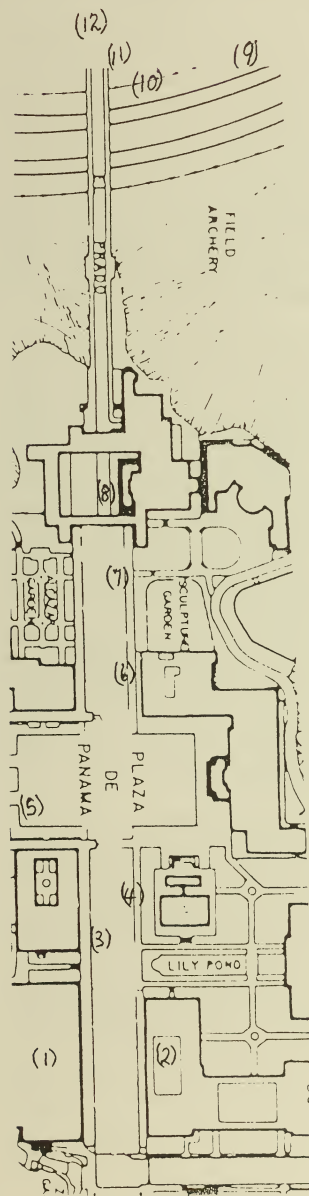
Leave in place at least six weeks.

The heat that builds up under the plastic is often enough to kill fungi and insect pests as well as many weed seeds.

Marianne Truby

Kate's Plants

by BARBARA S. JONES



From 1885, when she started her first nursery in San Diego, until her death in 1940, Kate Sessions devoted her life to introducing plants to beautify the area. She obtained plants from known and famous horticulturists and botanic gardens throughout the world, plus she tested plants for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Her name "Mother of Balboa Park" was earned during the 12 year period (1892-1904) when her nursery was in the northwest corner of the Park and part of her yearly rent was planting 100 trees in the park. She planted many more than these 1200 trees.

Many of the plants she introduced and popularized are now considered "natives," and to see some of her plants, join me as I stroll down the Prado from Casa del Prado to the statue of Kate Sessions, which was dedicated 1 April 1998.

(1) In front of Casa del Pacifico see the low hedge of begonias with *Clivia miniata* around the entrance and camellias in front of the pillars of the arcade.

(2) Palms, both fan and thatch, frame the entrance to Casa del Prado. The building is lined with a hedge of trimmed *Pittosporum tobira* fronted by a low bed of star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*).

(3) The House of Hospitality arcade is fronted with geraniums and *Stephanotis floribunda* vines are trained up the arcade.

(4) Look north across the Prado to the Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) at the side of the Timken Gallery.

(5) As you walk across the Plaza

note the bougainvillea on the arcades framing the Organ. Kate introduced the red ones.

(6) Twisted juniper line the Art Museum and at the west end note the Pfitzer junipers and the prostrate junipers. Kate loved junipers.

(7) At the right of the steps leading to the Globe Theater note the statice (*Limonium californicum*) backed by fortnight lilies (*Moraea iridioides*). The trees are sugar gum (*Eucalyptus corynocalyx*).

(8) In front of the Museum of Man the palm is Kate's favorite *Cocos plumosa* and lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus africanus*) are intermingled with clivia in the beds.

(9) Now cross the bridge and look to the north. The green patch is the T. Roosevelt grove of coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) planted in 1922, and

(10) The palm grove is of *Brahea brandegeei* planted in 1914.

(11) This gnarled old pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) is at the end of the bridge.

(12) Look forward to see the *Jacaranda mimosifolia* trees in the parkway, and then cross to view the plantings surrounding the Kate Sessions statue. The tree is the orchid tree (*Bauhinia variegata*) and in the area will be found ceanothus, echiums, sedums, raphiolepis, and matilija poppies, plus lots of succulents, which along with aloes were probably Kate's favorite plants.

To know how Balboa Park looked before Kate Sessions, go to Park Boulevard and look east toward Pershing Drive.

EXTRAORDINARY ORCHIDS OF FACT AND FICTION

by Christopher N. Herndon

"PRIDE, BEAUTY, AND PROFIT blossom together on one delicate green spike," is the great writer H.G. Wells' epitome of the appeal of the orchid in his macabre short story entitled "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid." In addition to the glamour and decadence long associated with their showy blooms, orchids have captured the botanist's fascination with their incredible evolutionary adaptations that have made the Orchidaceae, with its estimated 30,000 species and 100,000 registered hybrids, arguably the most prized and universally revered of all flowering plants.

Mr. Winter-Wedderburn, the protagonist of "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid," is an avid orchid grower with a small hothouse to shelter his precious plants. He purchases some orchids that were collected under mysterious circumstances, in which the orchid collector was found dead, with "one of these very orchids crushed up under his body." All the plants that Winter-Wedderburn purchased, including the familiar *Vanda*, *Phalaenopsis*, and *Dendrobium*, eventually succumbed and perished except this odd unknown orchid, which gradually recovered and thrived.

The strange orchid eventually threw up inflorescences that bore "three great splashes of blossom, from which this overpowering sweetness proceeded." The intense perfume was actually a potent hypnotic, causing Winter-Wedderburn to collapse after a few moments of hallucinogenic exhilaration. The tentacle-like aerial roots that once swayed freely in the air now "stretched tight with their ends closely applied to

his chin and neck and hands," draining the blood of its hapless victim. Winter-Wedderburn's quick-witted housekeeper fortunately intercedes, throwing a pot through the greenhouse glass, and, in fatally exposing the monstrous plant to the icy winter winds, rescues her employer from certain death.

As Winter-Wedderburn remarked, "There are such queer things about orchids...such possibilities of surprises." This sentiment was also shared by the great biologist Charles Darwin, who in 1862 published a book entitled *On the Various Contrivances by Which British and Foreign Orchids Are Fertilised by Insects* (1st ed.) as justification for ideas presented three years earlier in *The Origin of Species*. Darwin concluded, after examining flowers of the Madagascan orchid *Angraecum sesquipedale*, that there must be a sphinx moth pollinator with a proboscis approximately eleven inches long in order to reach the nectar at the base of the flower's immense foot long spur. Although Darwin was ridiculed by his contemporaries, forty years later such a large sphinx moth was captured in Madagascar. Even more remarkable, an *Angraecum* species (*Angraecum longicalcar*) with a floral spur length of sixteen inches has since been discovered.

Orchids seem to mimic by serendipity other creatures of the natural world. The labellum of the white flowered *Peristeria elata*, the famous "Holy Ghost Orchid," cannot be mistaken for anything other than a perfect image of a dove with its wings gently parted. Who would dispute the suggestion of a sinisterly grinning monkey in the elongated lip of the European terrestrial *Orchis* *Peristeria elata* — Veitch *simia*? Less bold and more subtle images of maidens, lizards, scorpions, butterflies, swans, and Medusa's severed head appear to the more intrepid and fertile imagination.

To some orchids, mimicry exists not by a chance happening of nature but rather as part of a devious scheme to procure pollinators. The numerous species of the *Ophrys* genus have lips in the texture and shape of a wasp's figure that flash with metallic blue, much

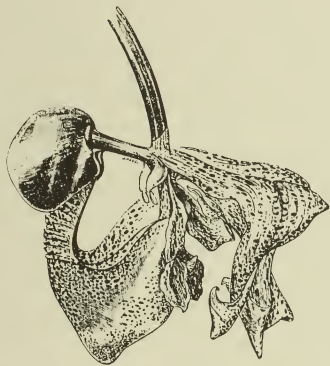


Dracula bella — Veitch



Peristeria elata — Veitch

in the way butterfly collectors attract blue morpho butterflies by waving sheets of blue foil. The enamored male wasps of certain species pollinate the orchid through the manner technically known as pseudocopulation. The mimicry is complete in every respect; even the fragrance imitates the female pheromones of the wasp. In fact, pseudocopulation is employed by many orchids to affect pollination, giving credence to the expression that sex sells. The brushing of the pollinator's body against the floral organs of an orchid is usually sufficient to transfer the pollen sacs that adhere to the pollinator's body by means of a special glue. Some orchids, in particular the *Catasetums*, are much more abusive, having sensitive appendages on the flowers that, when stroked, explosively discharge the pollinia.



Coryanthes macrantha — Veitch

The *Coryanthes* of Central and South America have an intricate floral structure and ingenious pollination mechanism so fantastic that it incited considerable incredulity and disbelief among early botanists. The labellum is deeply concave so as to form a bucket shape, which is filled with liquid secreted by two faucet-like special glands. Male euglossine bees, attracted by the potent fragrance, fight among each other for a place on the edges of the "bucket," inevitably slipping and falling into the liquid. The only escape route is a narrow passageway through which the bee is forced into contact with the orchid's sexual organs. In Darwin's words, the orchid flower "transcend[s] in an incomparable manner the contrivances and adaptations which the most fertile imagination of man could invent."

The diversity and intensity of orchid fragrances cannot be overstated. An estimated 80% of all orchid

species carry fragrance, ranging from lemon (*Haraella odorata*) to coconut (*Maxillaria tenuifolia*) to perfumes so delicious, yet indescribable other than as "orchidaceous." Some have the sweetest of scents, such as *Neofinetia falcata*, whereas others, like the Madagascan beauty *Angraecum magdalenae*, have spicy and sensual scents. Many orchids, such as the aforementioned *Angraecum sesquipedale*, have nocturnal fragrances potent enough that one flower is sufficient enough to saturate a large room. The flowers of some African *Bulbophyllums*, which are pollinated by carrion flies, carry an odor so powerful and overwhelmingly fetid that it has been known to cause those of weaker constitutions to faint. Indeed, the scent of one species has been likened to the smell of a herd of dead rotting elephants.

Much in contradiction to the popular notion, relatively few orchids inhabit the dark, hot, steamy lowland jungles. A far greater diversity of species hail from cooler mountain cloud forests, where they bathe in rich mist, cool temperatures and bright light. Orchids can be found on every continent except Antarctica as epiphytes, lithophytes, semi-terrestrials, or as terrestrials. Some orchids are saprophytic and chlorophyll-deficient, yet no orchids are known to be parasitic to their host. Narrowing the gap between science and fiction, two species from Australia live and flower almost entirely below ground.

One characteristic of orchids that forever belongs in the realm of fiction is their reputation for being temperamental plants. The introduction of the *Cattleya* into cultivation stands as testament to the durability and ease of culture of these plants. In the early nineteenth century, an Englishman named William Cattley noticed some unusual vegetation used as packing material in a parcel from Brazil. He potted a few of the stems and was rewarded with several large six-inch blossoms that have since ornamented many an elegant lady as corsages.

Alas, orchids are not the bloodthirsty monsters that wait in ambush for their unsuspecting victims, enticing poor souls through narcotic fragrances. Their ways of endearment are much more subtle. On behalf of the San Diego Orchid Society, I would like to invite you to attend the 52nd Annual Orchid Show and Plant Sale from March 13-15. Expose yourself to the world of orchids and understand why we, like the allegorical figure of Winter-Wedderburn, spend our time "worshipping that horrid orchid." □

Christopher N. Herndon is especially interested in the orchids of Madagascar. He is 2nd vice-president of the San Diego County Orchid Society. [References, page 43]

DON'T READ THIS. DON'T GET STARTED. THERE ARE NO TWELVE-STEP ORCHID PROGRAMS.

by PETER S. TOBIAS

MY ENTRÉE INTO ORCHIDS started when my wife made the fateful and foolish decision to buy me a white *Phalaenopsis*. It was pretty nice. My daughters had guinea pigs at the time and thought that the end of the column (the part of the plant that houses the pollen and stigma) looked like the nose on the guinea pigs. So actually it became a "guinea pig nose" orchid and that is still how they refer to *Phalaenopsis*. A friend of mine, John Law, who already had more orchids than he knew what to do with, said he would give me another if I kept this one alive for a year. I did. He did — a *Miltonia regnelii*. Now I have at least two hundred. And I have been cutting back.

After the *Miltonia*, John introduced me to a practice that I have enjoyed a lot, ordering strange sounding plants from wonderful foreign places. Kalimpong, Bangkok, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Caterina, Thuringowa, Heredia, Kowloon, Chiba, Taipei, Quezon City. I still have the list of plants John ordered for me from Kalimpong (Nepal). There were twenty-seven of them for a total of \$19.93 plus \$9.97 for postage. The most expensive was \$2.60. As a rank amateur with no particular place to grow them, most of them died, but the *Phalaenopsis manii* survived for many years before I sold it to move to California.

My next order was for about twenty-five miniature species that I ordered from Brazil. It all fit into a ten-gallon terrarium with a fluorescent light in the basement of our house in Chicago. A few more survived. Then I got some more plants and needed a bigger light box. Three four-foot fluorescent fixtures this time — still in the basement. Now I have a 10 x 12 greenhouse, a 10 x 12 shadehouse, and plants spilling all over the yard. The smallest is a *Pleurothallis* from Mexico, it lives on a piece of bark just about two inches square. The biggest is a *Dendrobium speciosum* from Australia, it lives in a →

thirty inch pot, probably weighs over 250 pounds, and spreads eight feet across when it blooms.

Why are orchids so fascinating that they can take over all your spare time, money, and space? Well first of all, they just simply look great. And all your friends think they are hard to grow. Truthfully, some are hard to grow, and every orchid grower kills his or her share. But especially here in San Diego, there is an orchid that will grow in your yard or your window. You just have to find it. Actually, it was Charles Darwin that really got me hooked on orchids. It seems he was pretty interested in orchids, too, and when he got done looking at them he wrote a book called *The Various Contrivances by which Orchids are Fertilised by Insects* (2nd ed.). Orchids turn out to have a number of astonishing adaptations that are designed to bribe, fool, or trap insects into pollinating them. For instance, there are the *Catasetums*, which have spring loaded pollen capsules. When an insect lands of the trigger, the pollen is forcibly ejected onto the insect. If you want to see your ten year old's eyes bug out, show them shooting pollen. Then there are the *Paphiopedilums*. They have slippery pouches into which an insect falls. When the insect crawls out, it can only do so by passing where the pollen is stored. Or there are the *Ophrys* species that look a great deal like certain flies and are thought to fool the males into landing on them under the impression that they are a female fly. But Darwin noticed some other interesting things. For example, the pollen capsules of orchids are typically on a stalk at the bottom of which is a sticky disc. When the bee lands, the sticky disc glues itself to the bee's head. As the bee flies off to the next flower, the stalk dries and in drying bends, so that when the bee lands at the next flower, the pollen is now pointed at the stigmatic surface to pollinate the flower. You can see this by taking the pollen with a toothpick or pencil.

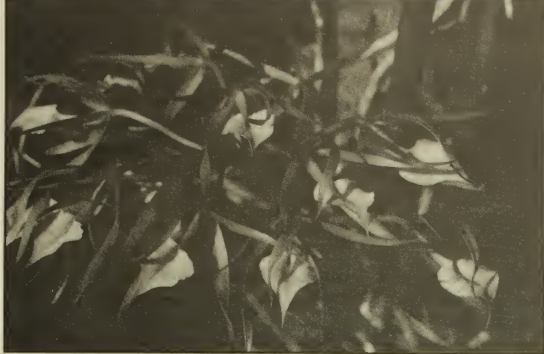
My advice? Join the orchid society. Borrow Darwin's book and look through it. Buy a few plants, throw out the ones that die, and wow your neighbors with shooting pollen. □

Peter S. Tobias is a biochemist with the Scripps Research Institute. He has been growing orchids for about twenty-five years, and now lives near Bay Park, where his orchid addiction goes by the name Coast Orchids.

("Extraordinary Orchids of Fact and Fiction"
continued from page 42)

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Brassavola cordata

ORCHIDS — STAY AWAY

by TOM BIGGART

ORCHIDS ARE SUCH BEAUTIFUL flowers! Look at them in the nurseries, in magazines, at flower shows, but—don't ever buy one! If you do, you will quickly get hooked with a capital H. Once, about twenty years ago, I bought an orchid at a nursery in Pasadena, and now, I have a 20' x 40' greenhouse jammed full with orchid plants. Let my experience be an example to all of you.

If you're really strong, you may purchase *one* plant but for sure don't ever go to an orchid society meeting. At a meeting you will see tables filled with glorious orchids in full bloom! Now you are beyond salvation.

One aspect of being an orchid addict is that all your vacations revolve around going someplace where orchids grow naturally. Here they may be observed *in situ* (growing in nature) and maybe even, perish the thought, collected. I wish to share with you one such adventure into the back country of Jamaica.

When we first selected a Jamaican vacation, I researched and researched until I knew which orchids grew there and exactly where in the country they might be found. This work would help me plan side trips to locate specific plants. One day we planned to drive to Negril to search for *Broughtonia negrilensis*, *Oncidium luridum*, *Brassavola cordata*, and whatever other plants might appear.

After driving down several roads looking up in the trees, we stopped at a roadside stand and talked with a local fellow named Nigel. We showed him pictures of the plants we were looking for. His eyes lit up. He told us there were lots of them on his family's land, and he would be happy to accompany us there to see them.

We drove a few miles, parked the car, and hiked a short way to a small, sunken canyon covered over

with trees dripping orchids! We photographed like mad, and Nigel scaled the canyon walls to collect a few specimens. It was like being in heaven!

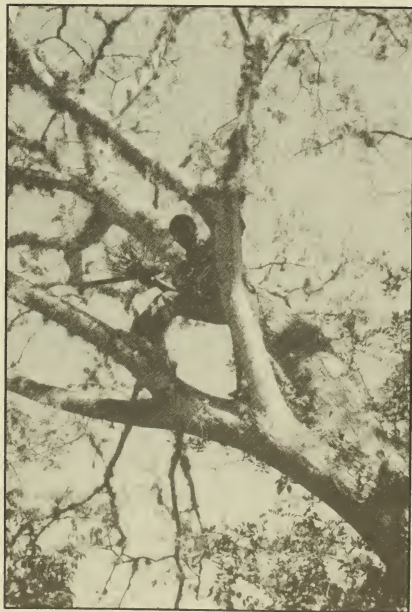
As we were hiking out, I simultaneously noticed we were walking through a ganja (marijuana) plantation and noticed a couple of very mean looking young men with long knives and unpleasant expressions. I knew we were going to disappear in the back country of Western Jamaica never to be found or heard from again!

Nigel and the two men talked and talked in their dialect. Nigel looked really worried. The men kept pointing at us and talking angrily. Finally, Nigel came to us and told us we could leave after giving them some money. We happily paid the men and left alive with Nigel and the plants!

After saying goodbye to Nigel, we breathlessly drove back to our hotel. A short swim in the beautiful water of Jamaica gave us energy to begin planning our next day's orchid search. Orchid lovers are such slow learners. □

Tom Biggart lives in the foothills of East El Cajon. He has been growing orchids for twenty-plus years and is the owner of Granite Hills Orchids. Photos by author.

(below) Nigel has just collected a specimen of *Brassavola cordata*.



ORCHID-LOVER'S COASTAL SAN DIEGO GARDEN

by ROBERT HORWITZ

YOUR TRAVELING GARDENER is staying close to home in this article, in fact, the garden I am going to talk about (not open to the public) is just down the street from me in Point Loma. A lovely lady named Martha G., who is a member of an orchid society, has discovered the secrets of growing and propagating many varieties of orchids. In particular, she has lovely displays of *Dendrobium* and well over one hundred large *Cymbidium* plants.

The garden is located on the north side of a shallow canyon, which gives it much wind protection and holds the heat of the day for a long time after dark. All the dendrobiums are housed in three greenhouses that are ventilated and allow just the right amount of sunlight to penetrate the walls and roofs. Going one step further, Martha has determined which corners or sides of the greenhouses provide the best environment for the orchids she has housed in them. Some spectacular spikes of flowers have been cut for vases, and others have been brought inside in their containers to be admired while they are blooming.

On both sides of the house are the cymbidiums, all in large containers and almost all have several spikes coming up from the base of the leaf bracts. Martha says the secret of successful transplanting of *Cymbidium* back bulbs is to have the soil come up to cover at least half the bulb. All are grown in fairly fine fir bark and fertilized with a 10-4-4 granular fertilizer during the late spring and summer, leaving off in the fall in anticipation of incipient spring blooming. Watering is especially important during our hot Santa Ana situations. If the plants are growing in clay pots they may need watering more often as the porous clay will wick off some water and cause it to be evaporated. In plastic pots the bark tends to separate from the pot walls, causing the water to run out along the sides of the pots and not penetrate the fir bark. Press the bark down along the pot sides to preclude this from happening.

Martha says that lots of her plants have come from society meetings where they have plant exchanges and drawings for plants. She says that she is very lucky in winning good plants under these conditions. The meetings also allow her to maintain her knowledge of the state of the orchid growing art. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in Point Loma.

GROWING HYDRANGEAS IN EAST COUNTY by DAVE BURNETT

HYDRANGEAS MAKE A GOOD flowering shrub for most areas of East County. The plants bloom freely from early summer to early fall in our area, starting with La Mesa and going east as far as Alpine. The only thing that might disrupt the normal bloom would be an unusually cold winter. Excessive cold destroys the terminal buds, thus the plant may not bloom that year.

The best location to plant a hydrangea is half shade. The north or east side of your house seems to work the best. Some shade from other trees or tall shrubs will work also.

Correct pruning is very important if you want a good, profuse blooming plant. It should be done in late summer to early fall, once the flowering season is over. In pruning, remove all old flowering shoots down to one or two buds on the stem. Also thin out weak stems and any others that seem over-crowded.

Only hydrangeas, which naturally have pink to rose-red flowers, will transform to blue. These plants assume blue tints when grown in acid soils or when treated with aluminum sulfate at the rate of three ounces per gallon. Several applications are recommended.

As a nurseryman in East County for over twenty-five years, I've grown and sold many varieties of the plant. My favorite is 'Merritt's Beauty'. The carmine-red flowers are very striking and it seems to go over well with our customers. Also, the lacecap variety 'Mariesii Variegata' is very popular, with its variegated foliage and gentian-blue flowers. □

Dave Burnett's emphasis for his degree from CalPoly was agricultural biology, but his knowledge of the nursery business and growing came through experience. He enjoys bringing fruit to his customers (at Plant House Nursery) from his home-orchard of forty-one fruit trees.

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A GARDEN RISES IN RAMONA

by BETTY NEWTON

HERE WE CONTINUE the story of the two gardeners, Doris Wood and Darrel Cheely, who together designed and planted the new Doris Wood Cottage Garden in Ramona. This is the one-acre garden and adjacent small nursery's third spring. With all its roses and perennials and lovely, open valley setting, it will be a garden to savor and watch.

Meeting Doris and Darrel in the garden for the first time, in June of 1997, naturally led to the question, "Well, how did you two meet? How did you get started?" The response from the two of them told what seemed such an improbable story that I asked each to write it down. I asked Doris to tell me something of her professional background and how she came to her sense of design. [See next page.]

We should not overlook what Darrel Cheely brought to the picture. "He was the only one here who had flowers at all," Doris said. "There were morning glories growing over the front fence."

What ignited the fuse between these two creative, artistic people was, I'm sure, a line in their conversation the day they finally met. Darrel said, "I've always wanted to make a perennial garden over there." Let him tell the story.

THE DORIS WOOD COTTAGE GARDEN - THE BEGINNING

by DARREL L. CHEELY

THEN

It's midafternoon of June 23, 1995. I've stayed home today, my birthday, so that I can work in my garden. It's a "long summer day" both literally and figuratively, and I've spent it working at the front of my property in the area where, for twenty years, I have envisioned a small home nursery. "Some vision," I mutter, as I hack away at crabgrass.

A small blue Toyota pickup pulls up to the gate. I feel a sense of anticipation as I peer at it, trying to see the driver. There is a glare on the windshield that prevents this. I already know something about this

person. Namely, that they have been leaving plants over my gate for close to a month. Plants I've always wanted, like campanulas and Japanese anemones and *Phlox subulata*. Once there was a note attached that said, "From one gardener to another." But there had been no name and no explanation. My wife has described the truck, but she has never seen the driver.

As the driver gets out of the truck I can understand why. She is small: less the five feet and doesn't weigh anything. I am reminded of a small bird as I watch her approach the gate. "Feisty," I think to myself.

She is handing me something. Not a plant, though she will later remember this meeting including a plant as well as the card. It's a birthday card with a cute message about appreciating growing older. "Must have been written by someone young," I think to myself.

I ask her name. "Doris Wood," she answers. I reply, "You're the one that's been leaving plants here, aren't you? How did you know it's my birthday, today?" Her eyes open wider and she looks at me really hard. "Yes, I have, and I didn't know it was your birthday. I was sharing this card a friend sent me. It's *my* birthday." Though separated by almost three decades, we share this birthday.

AND

Some things are meant to be, even though they take time. I waited twenty years to meet this lady from northern California. During those years I visited



gardens of all types in the United States and in England. In the process, I revisited many of my childhood memories where a love for gardens and gardening was instilled by my maternal grandmother — memories of days filled with the smell of “old” roses and freshly turned soil, rich in organic material.

Within five minutes of meeting, we decided to create a garden on the vacant acre behind us. Doris had created six gardens previously, several in Mendocino County — all of them “cottage garden” variety. I discovered her masterly command of the use and combination of color. An example is the perfect color relationship between the neighboring roses of ‘Mutabilis’ and ‘Will Scarlet’. She was, and is, an exceptional teacher, displaying great patience with her student.

The skeleton, or basic structure, of the garden took two years to complete. Or is it to begin? I made calls to Old Westbury Gardens in New York seeking advice on arbors and to David Austin in England regarding roses. Together, Doris and I listed the “must haves”: ‘Mutabilis’, ‘Will Scarlet’, *Rosa mundi*, ‘Crépuscule’, ‘La France’, ‘Reine des Violettes’, ‘Compassion’, ‘Madame Alfred Carrière’. The list went on and on. I worked at night and on weekends, double-digging every bed, carrying tons of rocks from the hills above Doris’ house to define each area. Doris planted so quickly that I had difficulty keeping up with her. The “final” bed was dug in May 1997. Doris had planted it with lavender roses and delicate, perennial dianthus before I had finished edging it with stone.



NOW

It is midmorning of June 23, 1997. I’ve stayed home today to work in the garden, and to celebrate three birthdays: Doris’, the garden’s, and mine. There’s a big cake on a table in the small nursery at

the front of the property. A tub is filled with ice and bottles of sparkling cider — Doris’ favorite celebration drink. Close to one hundred people will come to celebrate with us before the day is over.

A small blue Toyota pickup pulls up to the gate and I feel a sense of anticipation. Doris gets out of the truck. She hasn’t grown an inch over the past two years, and she weighs even less than she did. She’s dressed in a favorite blue and white striped shirt and a new “dressy” straw hat. I wave to her. “Feisty,” I think as I thank God for having met her. “Really feisty!” □

THE DESIGNER’S PERSPECTIVE

by DORIS WOOD

WHEN I LOOK BACK at my first sight of the spot where Darrel wanted to start his perennial garden, all I can see is a large trash pile about twenty-five feet high — jutting out in all directions. He’d been using it for all the time he’d lived there, maybe thirty-five or forty years by the looks of it. If I’d had any sense, I would have told him I didn’t really know how to garden after all!

There were dozens of gopher holes — a couple of gophers running around on the ground. I was so mad that I took my shovel and hit one on the head. Killed it, too. I never tried to kill another gopher like that, but we set many a trap and must have killed at least a hundred or two hundred at last count.

The soil was sandy and dry. Weeds were everywhere, but no rocks. Darrel used to tell people that he didn’t have any rocks on his two acres. I thought to myself, “Man, I have so many on my four acres (above his house) that we could spread a layer six feet deep over the entire area!” I needed a quick way to outline beds, so here was a perfect answer. It would only take about fifty trips up to my property to have a solution to my first problem.

The weather was something I couldn’t control. There is very little rain in Ramona and lots of wind. When the east wind begins to blow, it doesn’t let up for three or four days. The first time a tremendous wind storm came up, we had just planted a great number of trees, a row by the wire fence to the east and a second row about nine feet to the west of the first row, hoping to cut the wind from the main garden. Since the newly planted trees had few roots to hold them in place, trees started to blow over all along the line. It took Daniel R., our

(continued on page 52)



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen LaGamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry when watering from the top.

TO KEEP all areas clear of plant clutter. Use only clean sterile equipment. Have the area well ventilated.

TO PROVIDE 12 to 14 hours of indirect lighting daily.

TO PROTECT plants from any sudden change in temperature—maintain 65-75°F.

TO POT UP babies in 2½-inch pots using a light, porous, sterile soil with good drainage.

TO PRACTICE preventive measures against insects and disease—have clean hands and clothing.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PUT down tubers to sprout.

TO CLEAN all pots and plantings of dead wood, leaves, and old debris.

TO PROTECT roots with a mulch.

TO START feeding; give ¼ strength of any good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week, ½ strength if twice a month; full strength if once a month.

TO CONTROL disease and pests by spray and bait.

TO KEEP plants moist, but not wet.

TO START new plants from leaves, cuttings, or seeds.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH watering program according to the rains.

TO GRAFT deciduous plants.

TO REPOT plants; shape to conform to the container.

TO REMEMBER deciduous flowering plants need repotting every year, except quince. Conifers may go three to five years without repotting.

TO ADD small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying preparation to correct alkaline (salt) buildup.

TO WATCH for aphids and other pests.

TO WAIT until April to feed. Use a high nitrogen fertilizer for foliage growth; high phosphorus type to set flowers and fruit.

TO USE ¼-strength fertilizer spread several weeks apart, rather than using full strength only once. Measure accurately. Too much fertilizer can burn roots and cause leaf damage.

BROMELIADS

Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CHECK plants for scale especially during spring when scale is most likely to appear.

TO TREAT plants with scale by dipping or spraying them thoroughly with a solution of Cygon 2E according to directions on the label. Drain excess solution from plant.

TO KEEP plants clean. Cut spent blooms and dead leaves.

TO REPOT your favorite plants in new potting media. This helps them to develop a healthier growth.

TO ALWAYS provide good drainage and never allow the soil to become soggy.

TO FERTILIZE only during the warm months, once a month, preferring a fertilizer high in acid. Use ½ the recommended strength on the label.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

Joseph A. Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE plants for spring growth by checking soil and pot condition—transplant if needed. Soil mix should be light and water should flow through freely.

TO FERTILIZE your plants regularly.

TO START acclimating the protected plants to outdoor conditions once again, after danger of frost is gone.

TO PROTECT sensitive plants from the rain and sun; bright sun can burn indoor plants.

TO KEEP newly purchased plants separated from your collection until they show signs of good growth without any pests or disease; treat any pest soon, watch for snails also. The wet winter might bring you rodents; mice and rabbits are cute but no cacti are safe from their nibbles. Protect your plants.

CAMELLIAS
Les Baskerville

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP picking up spent blooms and petals to prevent petal blight.

TO START your pruning program after the plants have finished blooming.

TO CONTINUE to feed iron and 2-10-10 fertilizer for dark green leaves and root development.

TO LOOK for aphids and loopers if found spray with malathion.

TO START to feed using a program with cottonseed meal.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT tubers in starting medium such as vermiculite or sand. Keep in a warm place to sprout; beware of too much moisture.

TO PREPARE the planting area by adding humus and fertilizer.

TO PLANT sprouted tubers, sprout side up, six inches below ground surface, two inches from stake, and cover with two inches of soil.

TO MOISTEN, but do not keep wet.

TO PROTECT new growth from snails.

TO BE SURE to drive stake into ground before planting tubers.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

George French

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED epiphyllums with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

TO CHECK trellis to be sure plants are well secured.

TO GIVE plants filtered sunlight to encourage development of buds.

TO BAIT for snails. Granules have proven effective when placed at the base of the plant. They leave little or no residue.

TO CHECK for drainage in April. Do not move plants at this time, but continue to feed for bloom; use Hi-Bloom or bloom-builder type to promote healthy buds and bloom.

TO TAKE cuttings.

TO REMOVE buds from a new plant; that energy needs to go to the root system.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO CATCH rain water for plants in covered areas.

TO DIVIDE, repot or add leaf mold to those plants needing it.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE vitamin B₁ after dividing; use per instructions on label.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE when new growth begins, if the soil is not moist, to a depth of 3 feet.

TO APPLY fertilizer high in nitrogen. Most mature fruit trees require the equivalent of one pound of actual nitrogen annually. Divide the amount of fertilizer required into three equal lots and apply them six weeks apart, starting in the spring after new growth begins.

TO BEGIN thinning fruit of apples, pears, and stone fruit when they are about 1/2" in size. Space fruit 4 to 6 to inches apart or leave one fruit per spur. Thin early maturing varieties earlier and heavier than late maturing varieties.

TO CHECK trees for pests. Wash foliage periodically with a forceful spray of water to dislodge aphids, spider mites, and whiteflies. If a pesticide is needed, use a chemical that has short residual activity, such as insecticidal soap or pyrethrin to protect beneficial insects.

TO KEEP ants off trees by wrapping a band of heavy paper around the trunk and applying a barrier of Tanglefoot on it, or by scattering diazinon granules on the soil around the trunk.

TO SPRAY apples after bloom to control codling moth (wormy fruit). Apply diazinon after petals have fallen and twice more at two-week intervals.

TO APPLY sulfur dust to control powdery mildew on grapes when new shoots are 6, 12, 18, and 24 inches long. Then, every two weeks or as needed until harvest.

FUCHSIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants not done earlier.

TO PINCH new growth on plants pruned earlier. As the third set of leaves forms on new growth, pinch out the terminal set. This will result in a bushier plant.

TO FERTILIZE with any good balanced fertilizer.

TO WATCH for insects and treat accordingly.

TO WATER thoroughly the day before spraying.

TO CONTINUE taking cuttings from prunings.

TO CLEAN up fallen leaves, blooms and other trash.

GERANIUMS (*Pelargonium*)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended amount as often as needed to keep the plants growing well. As the soil becomes warmer, long-term pellets may be used.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease control, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO PRUNE ivies and zonals if they have not been pruned. Avoid cutting regals, scented, and related types because their flowers will be lost by pruning them at this time.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots regularly to produce well-shaped plants.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CUTBACK to the basal foliage some herbaceous perennial plants: mums, columbine, coreopsis, some true geraniums, ornamental grasses, evening primrose, many salvias, and Shasta daisies.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRING clean your herb garden.

TO CONTROL herbs that pop up from seed or runners. These include borage, nasturtium, nettle, milk thistle, fennel, mint

TO AMEND soil with compost.

TO DIVIDE clumping herbs. Replant if your design and desire allows it—chives, society garlic, lemon grass....

TO PLANT from seeds or starts a variety of annuals—basil, dill, cilantro, red clover, poppy (culinary)....

TO PROTECT young plants from snails.

TO HARVEST flowers from calendula, lavender, elderberry... and leaves from dill, thyme, sage, periwinkle, mullein, raspberry....

TO WATCH for aphids. Spray with forceful water. IF necessary use a little soap in a hose sprayer or

release helpful ladybugs.

TO ENJOY the clean spring green.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START feeding low nitrogen, all-purpose and liquid fish fertilizers.

TO WATER regularly if no rain.

TO CLEAN beds and keep weeds under control.

TO WATCH for pests—systemic sprays applied as a drench will usually free iris of aphids and thrips.

TO GIVE Japanese and Louisiana irises an application of an acid food—a camellia-type fertilizer is convenient to use.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SEE the beautiful wildflowers in the Anza-Borrego Desert and in your own community.

TO TAKE note of the plants you would like to add to your garden and make a note to purchase them in the fall.

TO SEE the beautiful display of *Ceanothus* at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden.

TO BE diligent in spreading snail bait. If you don't wish to use snail bait, buy bran at a feed store and spread it around. The snails will eat it, it will swell up inside, and they will die! Not harmful to the environment or to children or pets.

TO FINISH planting any natives not yet in the ground.

TO CONTINUE supplementing winter and spring rains through May.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPEAT *Cattleya* plants that have exceeded their pots and are showing new eyes.

TO MOVE *Cymbidium* plants that are in spike to a shadier spot to lessen fading.

TO PROTECT *Cymbidium* plants from possible hail and rain.

TO SET OUT slug and snail bait, check for red spider, scale and mealybug. Try to keep ants out of your domain: they bring aphids and other pests.

TO CONTINUE even fertilizer feeding of *Phalaenopsis*: plants in bloom should be protected from drafts.

TO GROW the *Oncidium* alliance, *Odontoglossum*, *Brassia*, etc. with some research. Air movement,

light, feeding, and good sodium-free water are some requirements for successful growing.

TO CHECK air cooler and fans; they may need oil.

TO FLUSH and reset any water filters or reverse osmosis units.

TO WATCH for plants that may get sunburned and protect them.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER deeply to encourage your bushes to produce strong stems and healthy foliage.

TO WATER roses day before feeding or spraying and again after feeding.

TO VARY the products used to provide the essential nutrients and micro-nutrients for your roses. Roses require a balanced diet to produce the blooms for which we grow them. High nitrogen will produce unusually tall bushes, which in many cases appear out of place in our home landscape, and which has contributed to too many negative comments about unattractive bushes. Along with the need for organic materials we now recognize that nitrogen alone will seldom produce the quality and quantity of bloom we strive to produce.

TO VISIT your roses often to observe and enjoy their growth and revel in the beautiful early foliage.

TO CHECK daily for signs of unwanted pests, early signs of nutrient deficiency and/or early weeds and grasses.

TO CONTROL aphids by washing them off with a strong stream of water from the hose in the early morning.

TO CONTROL thrips damage to blooms by using Orthine (available in an atomizer spray) on blooms just as they begin to drop their sepals. Thrips become very active when the local uncared for vegetation dries up because of lack of moisture. Thrips distort the blooms by sucking the moisture from the petals and the bloom fails to open properly.

TO RECORD your garden maintenance efforts. Time does fly when you're having fun!

TO PREPARE to adjust your schedule to weather conditions. Foggy cool days are certain to encourage mildew in the rose garden and an early heat wave means you must water, water, water. To a limited degree washing off your bushes in the early morning will delay mites and even early mildew.

TO LEARN rose terminology. Particularly become acquainted with the difference between a sucker and a basal break! A sucker is **unwanted** and a basal break is a beginning to a new cane, which is what we

are trying to produce so we can cut off the old worn out canes at next year's pruning!

TO ENJOY your roses during these months, weather permitting, the months of glory for roses and rosarians.

TO ATTEND garden shows and appreciate all the wonderful plant materials that abound in Southern California.

TO PLAN for replacement varieties of roses during the growing season by observing carefully roses in gardens in your area. Usually roses that perform well in the coastal areas will not have enough petals to produce good roses in the inland areas. Avoid roses that are susceptible to mildew.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO PREPARE soil for planting by incorporating compost and a complete fertilizer high in phosphorus. Apply chemical fertilizers just before planting. If manures are used, apply them at least two weeks before planting and irrigate to leach salts from the surface soil. Apply twenty pounds of poultry manure or fifty pounds of steer manure per hundred square feet.

TO MAKE a last planting of cool season vegetables such as leaf lettuce, beets, and kohlrabi that will mature before hot summer weather arrives.

TO SET OUT tomato transplants after danger of frost has past. Delay planting beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, melons, peppers, and squash until the soil is warm. Use hot caps or floating row covers to promote faster growth.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications
NOW IS ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: cabbage and eggplant.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (lima, pole, snap), beets, carrots, chard, corn, cucumbers, endive, gourds, kale, lettuce (leaf), melons (cantaloupe, casaba), okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips, peas (bush), peppers, radishes, spinach (in March), squash (summer and winter), tomatoes, turnips, and watermelon — ageratum, amaranthus, balsam, canterbury bells, carnations, celosia, coleus, cosmos, daisies (African), dusty miller, four o'clocks, impatiens, lobelia, marigold, morning glory, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, scabiosa, statice, tithonia, verbena, vinca, zinnias.

("The Designer's Perspective"
continued from page 47)

right-hand man, plus the help of my daughter, Nancy Hallberg, to rescue and tie them to the fence to stakes. Darrel was at his school, and I was little help. I only weigh about one hundred pounds. I flew around, getting rope, stakes, etc. After four hours, most trees were snugged up and we left the garden worn out and windblown ourselves.

Water was nonexistent at this stage, although there was a good well, and Darrel was in the process of putting in faucets where the first beds were to be planted. When the trees and first beds were planted, it was the beginning of summer. It was an all-day job to keep everything wet. The heat was unbearable. It was already a six to eight hour chore every day. As we planted more beds, it would be a job for more than one person. My son, Bill Wood, was concerned about my long days, my pacemaker, and fair skin so he volunteered to put in a drip system. He had to learn while he progressed and did a fine job on it. As more beds were planted, he put in more drip lines. Sometimes Darrel would turn them on before work, then I would continue for the rest of the day.

Designer's Background

Lest you think that I am a trained landscape gardener, let me tell you that all I knew about plants I learned from books. My sense of color and my knowledge of the nature of plants, their habits, their shapes and leaves, their height and hues I learned from eighty years of experience. I gardened with my father in my early years. He liked to garden on his days off, and I spent much time with him in his garden, where, among other things, he grew roselle, (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*), and salsify (oyster plant) the seeds of which he sold to nurseries.

After I grew older and married a farmer, I always had a vegetable garden. When I was left a widow, I worked at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for seventeen years with little time to garden. When I retired, I moved to Mendocino and opened a small nursery and started making gardens for other people. In 1976, *Sunset* magazine had an article on Mendocino Coast nurseries in which they wrote about mine as, "... just the kind of country garden you'd like to retire to."

I first met Bob Peterson (owner of Jack in the Box) at my nursery. He asked me to do the garden at the Mendocino Hotel, which he was in the process of renovating. I worked there until he asked me to design and plant a large garden elsewhere with some new buildings just being completed. I had never worked on so large a project before, but he had faith in me, and

I completed it in time for the opening. I then wanted to work on another big project, so I got a job supervising a crew of five gardeners at the Little River Inn on the coast near Mendocino. I left that job because the owner wanted me to climb out on the cliffs in front of his house overlooking the ocean. The waves were so high in a storm that the spray blew onto the windows in front of his house. He wanted me to plant some ice plant. That was quite enough for me to know that I didn't need that job. Two other bed and breakfast inns hired me. They were nearer to where I now lived.

I thought I had finished my gardening life after I had a pacemaker installed in 1989, so I sold my large garden and moved with my son to Chico. But within a couple of weeks I was making a new garden and have been gardening ever since. About five years ago, I moved to Ramona to live with my son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Darlene Wood.

On Designing a Cottage Garden

In order to make a large garden without special training, I find that the biggest help is to read a lot so that you know which plants will grow in your area. After that, look at plants your neighbors grow with success. It is best to start with plants you know; then try some others you are not sure will grow in your zone.

As I have said, you also need to know habits, height, color of leaves and flowers, appropriate soil moisture, and whether the plants want sun or shade. To define a bed there are many choices. I once decided to do as Gertrude Jekyll did and put edgings consisting of trimmings from my pruning. That was a disaster because every one of them grew and they were the prunings of my plum trees!□

You will get a sense of Doris Wood's skill with color if you imagine the buff, soft yellow, and pale red flowers of a *Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis' bush planted round with silver-blue fescue clumps.

Visit the garden on a weekend or holiday at 744 Pile Street, Ramona. This is east of town. On Hwy 78 go past the Sizzler Restaurant and make a left turn on Magnolia. Proceed about a mile to Pile Street and turn right. It is close to that corner and there are signs.□

Betty Newton

Darrel L. Cheely is an elementary school principal, who has lived and gardened in Ramona for thirty-five years.

Photographs by Betty Newton.

Photos of Doris Wood and Darrel Cheely on page 55.

DOGFACE DAYS®

by PAT PAWLOWSKI



WHAT'S IN A NAME? A rose by any other name, it is said, would smell as sweet.

And a California dogface—that, by the way, is the state butterfly of California—would still be as beautiful.

However, I'm sure they could have thought up a better common name if they had really tried (whoever "they" are). Come to think of it, "the flying pansy" is another common name for this *Colias (Zerene) eurydice* butterfly. Somewhat better than "dogface," but for some reason the dogface moniker is the one that seems to stick.

When on the wing, the dogface resembles a flying pansy-like flower. The upper wings of the male California dogface are a velvet black with a profile in glowing orange of something that looks a bit like a poodle. There's a name for you—the poodleface butterfly. Sounds like California, don't you think?

Anyway, I am looking right now at a wing from a California dogface, recently deceased due to natural causes. I have glued the wing onto a small rock, and now, as I rotate the rock this way and that, the colors in the orange poodleface turn into the most remarkable glowing orange-pink-violet hues. The changing colors remind me of a male hummingbird's throat feathers, which catch the light and startle the eyes with their iridescence.

So much for those fabulous forewings. The rear wings of the male are a California-poppy-orange. The female is yellow with one tiny black dot on each forewing. Wingspan of both genders is about two inches.

A close relative of the California dogface is the southern dogface, or *Colias (Zerene) cesonia*, which you will be more likely to encounter. The males in this species also resemble flying posies, but without the iridescence.

Now, if you are still reading this and haven't nodded off yet, you are probably waiting for me to tell you how easy it is to spot these butterflies in the spring. Sorry, it's not so easy. Dogfaces are not easy to find in coastal areas, preferring foothills and mountains. But I can almost guarantee you'll have fun trying, in one of two ways: (1) you can go to the dogfaces, or (2) have the dogfaces come to you.

GOING TO THE DOGFACES

Going to the butterflies sometimes means taking a

hike, and many organizations sponsor hikes: the San Diego Natural History Museum, the San Diego Audubon Society, Mission Trails Regional Park, the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and others. Newspapers generally carry notices about hikes, too.

Many nature hikes are really easy and very pleasurable, and it's fairly certain that you'll see some type of butterfly. Besides, while you are out there looking for dogfaces, you'll be able to spot some of the most glorious wildflowers imaginable. Spring has almost sprung, and budding gardeners should take advantage of it—there are wondrous wild blooms out there to view. And, while you're viewing them, take notes of what they are; the hike leader will usually be quite knowledgeable about plant names. That way, when it's time to put in native plants (most favorable time is fall) you'll know which ones you want to buy.

Another way to see dogfaces is to visit The Monarch Program's vivarium, or butterfly house, located in Encinitas. The butterfly house always contains various species of butterflies, and sometimes dogfaces. Call first to make sure they're open (760-944-7113).

HAVING THE DOGFACES COME TO YOU

Now, if you want the butterflies to come to you and your yard, you must provide them with comfortable surroundings (sunny, sheltered, pesticide-free areas replete with a mud puddle and some rocks) and plenteous nourishment.

The nourishment consists of two separate types of plants: host, or larval-food plants, and nectar plants.

To entice butterflies, we've got to understand the four stages of the butterfly life cycle:

(1) The egg, which hatches into

(2) The caterpillar or larva, which then eats the leaves of its host plant, also known as its larval-food plant (most butterfly caterpillars can only be sustained by a limited variety of plants, those with the right chemical make-up). The caterpillar will eat until it changes into

(3) The chrysalis, or pupa, which looks entirely different from the caterpillar. This is when the magic of metamorphosis occurs: After some days the soupy material that has been enclosed in the transparent skin

of the chrysalis changes into

(4) The adult butterfly.

SEARCHING DOGGEDLY

The female butterfly, being maternally-inclined, will seek out host plants on which to lay eggs. A male butterfly, being romantically-inclined, will seek out females. While both genders are out searching, they will need nectar obtained from many different types of flowers.

That is where you, the happy butterfly host, come in. You will endeavor to provide both the proper larval-food plants and nectar plants.

THE HOST PLANTS WITH THE MOSTEST

The host plant of the California dogface is false indigo (*Amorpha californica*). Although perhaps other plants have been used as hosts on extremely rare occasions, false indigo is the plant that attracts maternally-inclined female dogfaces.

Here's the truth about false indigo: It is a deciduous shrub with graceful-looking pinnate leaves. It ranges from about 3 to 8 feet high, and likes moist soil. The individual flowers, which occur in spikes, are purple and have only one petal—somewhat unusual.

The host plant of the southern dogface is western false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*). It is a large shrub with deep purple flowers and is excellent for erosion control.

Although western false indigo occurs in San Diego County in places such as San Pasqual, Ramona, National City, Mission Gorge, Jacumba and many other areas, it is not seen very often in gardens. As a result, dogfaces are not common in urban areas. After all, the butterfly will not be around if the host plant is not present. However—who knows? If enough of us plant *Amorpha* in our yards, we might be able to increase the population of dogfaces.

Another host plant for the southern dogface is *Trifolium* spp., much better known as clover. There are many kinds to choose from, including native varieties. Although clover may be somewhat invasive, it can be a good plant to include in your yard, for many reasons. Here are some of them: erosion control (*T. fragiferum*, or strawberry clover, has deep roots); food for wildlife (flowers provide nectar for butterflies and bees); landscaping (some kinds are excellent lawn substitutes).

NECTAR-CONTAINING PLANTS

Adult butterflies imbibe nectar from many kinds of flowers, and each species is said to have its favorite nectar plants. For dogfaces, a favorite nectar plant is *Dichelostemma pulchellum*, better known as blue dicks

or wild hyacinth. This is another of our native plants—an exceptional one. In fact, its species name says it all: the Latin word for “beautiful” is “*pulchellum*.” However, the name “blue dicks” is a lot easier to pronounce.

In bloom, blue dicks will surprise you: Popping out from a group of neighboring small shrubs, the bare stem rises one to two feet, and on top of the stem will be a group of lavender flowers in a gorgeous cluster. Luckily for us, it is a very common plant in the San Diego County area. It is quite drought tolerant. Blue dicks is a perennial herb, with long leaves arising from an underground corm. In early days the corms of blue dicks were eaten by Indians and early settlers, who called them grass nuts.

Other native plants that are good nectar sources include native milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.); native verbenas (*Verbena* spp.); mule fat (*Baccharis glutinosa*); coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*); arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*); buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*); deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*); hairy senna (*Cassia covesii*); armed senna (*Cassia armata*); California yarrow (*Achillea californica*).



NOW IS THE TIME

TO THINK ABOUT GOING NATIVE

If you are like me, as the weather clears you will be wanting to get out there and plant something. Again, if you are like me, you will feel a bit sorry that you did not get around to putting in any native plants during the prime native plant-planting season, which is fall.

However, you'll be glad to hear that we're all getting a second chance; many natives will generously allow you to plant them in the spring.

That's where the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (619/685-7321) can help. In conjunction with the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano, they will be holding a native plant sale in late spring. You can call them to get the exact date. Knowledgeable volunteers will be available to introduce you to the plants and explain how to take care of them.

San Diego's other native club, the Lake Hodges Native Plant Club (760/741-0829), is always glad to talk plants with people.

It's good to go native. Many natives are drought tolerant. Many are easy-care. Many attract wonderful kinds of fauna. Many bloom just when you need to be cheered up, after the winter's occasional daytime gloom and nighttime chill.

So there we have it. If we want to bring more vitality and beauty into our yards, we have it in our power. If we plant with reverence for the natural world around us, we'll all benefit in the end—people, plants and pollinators alike. To make it perfectly plain, without plants and their pollinators—among them the butterflies—none of us would be here.

All we need do is relax, and nurture an ability to tolerate a few half-eaten leaves, and less than perfect-looking plants. We can then enjoy life instead of wearing ourselves out, continuously trying to make the outdoors conform to our idea of perfection.

But mark this: When we actually see that rarely occurring butterfly that has ventured into our orbit, our sense of joy in having created a suitable habitat may very well be perfect. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

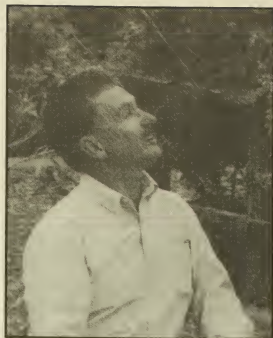
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Doris Wood

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STARTING SEEDS

by Catherine L. Zinsky

THE SEED PACKAGES OF your favorite old-fashioned cutting flower and that new hybrid petunia have arrived and you're holding them at arm's length wondering how to deal with them. The solution is easy: plant them.

Starting seeds is generally easy. Most seeds will reliably germinate given proper conditions, which basically are soil, water, and warmth. Whether you choose to start them indoors or out is going to depend on your climate and the varieties you've chosen to germinate.

Starting your seeds indoors will afford you a few advantages: you can get a head start, you'll have more control over the environment, the seeds won't wash away in a heavy rain, and the seedlings, once they're up, won't become bird fodder.

Planting seeds outdoors is equally advantageous: no soil mixture is required, sowing the seeds is less work intensive, transplanting isn't necessary the seedlings themselves, once up, won't have to be moved in the light nor can they become root bound in a pot.

Seeds are rather costly, which is one reason I prefer starting them in flats and assuming responsibility for their environment and ultimate germination. Here is how it's done: To begin with you'll need a sterile soil mix (dampened), containers, labels, and light. Even heat gives seeds a major jump-start in germination. Propagation mats are ideal for this, as they maintain a steady temperature, are safe, and are a workable size for the home gardener. In lieu of a propagation mat, consider the top of your refrigerator, an enclosed sun room, a windowsill, under a light bulb, any place where there will be warmth. Most spring seeds germinate at about 70°F. Remember not to bake your seeds, merely provide warmth.

Before opening your package of seeds, organize your materials. Fill your chosen container to about 2/3 full with prepared—moist but not soggy—soil mix. Lightly tamp the soil down. Prepare your labels.

It's a rare seed package that doesn't provide instructions on how to sow the respective seeds inside. Most will tell you when to plant, proper sowing depth, temperature range, and the time it will take the seed to germinate. By all means, follow these instructions.

Regarding planting depth, you needn't use a ruler. If, for instance, the planting depth is $\frac{1}{2}$ " , you can either make an educated guess when planting each seed or measure off $\frac{1}{2}$ " on whatever implement you

intend to use to make your seed hole (a pencil, a chopstick, a twig, toothpick, whatever), then puncture the soil to the mark, drop in the seed, and cover it with soil. It's that easy!

Many seeds are extremely tiny and hard to spread evenly. One method is to mix the seed with some dry, fine grained sand, put the mixture in a salt shaker, and gently shake the mixture evenly over your prepared soil. If the seeds are to be covered per directions, lightly crumble more soil over them; if directions say they are merely to be patted in, you can use a fine sprinkle of water to settle them in or a piece of paper (the empty seed pack itself, perhaps) to place over the sowed seeds, then press gently with the flat of your hand on the paper. Remember to remove the paper.

If the package directions suggest soaking the seed first, don't be daunted. Soaking seeds with hard seed coats softens them and hastens germination. Simply let them soak in a bowl of warm water for at least three hours. Overnight is generally the norm, but look for a swelling of the seed. Once it swells, it's time to plant. Do not remove the seed from the water and neglect to plant them. Plant immediately. If you can't plant at this juncture, simply change the water and plant them at the earliest opportunity.

Once the seeds are planted, maintain soil at an evenly moist level, never wet or soggy. It is imperative that you not allow the planted seeds to dry out. A daily misting is perfect, but should this prove impossible, simply slip the container into a clear plastic bag and close it with a twisty. Or loosely cover the container with a sheet of plastic wrap. Once the seeds have sprouted, however, remove the plastic. Air circulation is essential for young plants.

After your seeds have germinated, wait until all chances of frost are over or until at least 4 leaves have opened before transplanting your seedlings into the ground. If kept indoors longer, be sure to give them adequate, indirect light and to rotate the container periodically so that the seedlings grow erect and proud. Should you notice that they are becoming long and spindly, provide more light.

Starting seeds is that easy: the rewards immeasurable. Good luck and happy gardening . . . □

Catherine L. Zinsky gardens at about 1,900 feet in Crest. She is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications.



Book Reviews

BREAKING GROUND: Portraits of Ten Garden Designers

Page Dickey

New York, Artisan, 1997, 208 Pages, 200 color photos, 9½" x 12¼", hardcover, \$45

Gardening on the grand scale, from northern California vineyards to the French countryside to Manhattan rooftops, is stunningly presented in this coffee-table volume. Although some are enclosed landscapes, most offer sweeping views of the surrounding area, a commodity that inspires the main theme of designing gardens with a sense of place, relating them to the geography that surrounds them, the place where they are.

Native plants, even "weeds," are featured in these landscapes, and consideration is given to how plant material looks in its prime and in its dormant shape and color as well. The bright shades of fall seed pods and the graceful lines of dry grasses add much to these designs. Formal planting beds are created with a careful eye to the scene beyond them, be it a chaparral canyon in Los Angeles or an ancient village in Provence. No matter the size of the garden, and many are estate-size, it is intended to relate intimately to its surroundings.

As gracefully described in the text and displayed in two hundred gorgeous color photographs, these general principles take on exciting dimensions in the variety of locales included in this book. An English designer, Dan Pearson, creates vast landscapes for his clients in the country, yet his own quirky garden is crowded onto a 9' x 12' London rooftop garden designed by Madison Cox. It features galvanized steel planters, an iron spiral staircase covered in vines and a terrace shaded by roses and crab apple trees.

Hardscapes are an essential element in most of these gardens, whether designed by Steven Martino of Phoenix, where colored walls set off the patterns of palo verde trees and ocotillo, or the fanciful twig fences of Nancy McCabe in New England. Clipped hedges and topiaries are another common feature, with the most unusual being the huge undulating shapes created by Piet Oudolf in Holland.

The author concludes with a short chapter on how writing this book influenced the direction of her own garden in new York state. Her readers, in turn, will find a wealth of inspiration to enhance the spirit of their own places.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PENJING: Worlds of Wonderment

Qingqum Zhao, Translated by Karin Albert

Athens, Georgia, Venus Communications, 1997, 144 pages, color throughout, 11½" x 9¾", hardcover, \$39.95

Miniature landscape with scaled down trees amid carefully spaced and sculpted small rocks is a classical Chinese art form known as penjing. More than replications of nature, they are designed to express the harmony of opposing elements and the principles of ancient Chinese culture.

"Joyous Tunes Before Sunset" is a grouping of Chinese sweet plum trees amid sections of Turtle Shell Rock. "Autumn Abundance" is a leaning thick-trunked persimmon tree laden with tiny fruit. And "Tales of Defiance" is a horizontally pruned five needle pine that has grown (been trained) down at a 45 degree angle from a wide, deep bowl. Color photographs of these examples of Zhao's artistry open the book and one need not be an aficionado of bonsai (the Japanese version of a form of penjing) to appreciate their poetic and horticultural beauty.

Many more color illustrations introduce an in-depth discussion of the historical and cultural background of Penjing, which prepares the reader for the specifics of the various forms that follow. The most traditional are tree penjing, one or several miniature trees in a container, and landscape penjing, the combining of trees and rocks in a composition. A more modern form, known as water-and-land penjing has recently evolved.

A generous "how-to" section is full of practical advice and techniques and the book also includes a guide to Chinese pronunciation. Finally, to convey what Penjing is all about, the art and philosophy of Chinese landscape painting and principles of artistic composition are sensitively explored, indicating the inner journey of the spirit that leads to creation of "worlds of wonderment."

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

HOW TO GROW FRESH AIR: Fifty Houseplants That Purify Your Home or Office

Dr. B. C. Wolverton

New York, Penguin Books, 1997, 144 pages, color throughout, 9½" x 7½", soft cover, \$15.95

A thought provoking book, emphasizing the important role plants play in the air we breathe. Thanks to recent studies inspired by NASA, we are reminded that the living processes of plants are our main means of producing and sustaining clean air. Although we are all familiar with smog alerts, indoor air quality has been largely ignored. We are told to stay indoors even though air pollution may be heavier inside than out. Modern buildings and furnishing materials are now mainly composed of synthetics held together with glues and resins, and furnishings in homes no longer are made of natural materials. Organic chemicals are emitted into the air by these synthetic materials and people working in small spaces contribute volatile substances, as well as carbon dioxide. The result of these energy efficient buildings is that indoor air pollution is often greater than outdoors. With allergy related illness increasing at an alarming rate, efforts to encourage the use of house plants in buildings to control indoor air pollution have proven of great value. This book includes five chapters, index, glossary, and bibliography. Chapter five contains fifty houseplants evaluated

for their ecological benefits including maintenance, resistance to pests, efficiency at removing chemical vapors, and transpiration rates. Chapter four contains a description of hydroculture — growing plants in water solution. It is suggested that use of hydroculture will benefit those who grow plants to improve indoor air quality. It is explained in detail and implies easy maintenance.

Those of you that have experienced as I have the frustration of selecting plants for students living in dorms and small apartments will be reinspired to encourage the use of live plants indoors. While dried materials may be decorative and long lasting you will benefit from "the green revolution."

Reviewed by Marianne D. Truby

RARE LILIES OF CALIFORNIA

Peggy Lee Fiedler, Illustrations by Catherine M. Watters
Sacramento, California Native Plant Society Press, 1996, 154 pages, 34 color illustrations, 6" x 9", hardcover \$100, softcover \$24.95. Order from CNPS, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814

Books which focus on a particular plant or species always set themselves apart from general gardening literature. The reader knows before starting that on some level they will become more intimately involved with the subject. At best the mind will be transported to a greater understanding of the species and ideally, by learning in detail one plant group, gain a greater appreciation of the greater botanical world. *Rare Lilies of California* is just such a book.

The fascinating world of the Liliaceae in California includes thirty-four native genera out of forty-one for the entire country. Readers who are not professional botanists will expand their awareness of this wonderful family, which includes agaves and onions as well as the familiar floral 'Star Gazer'. Ms. Fiedler describes the patterns of rarity as plant forms adapted to very specific environmental conditions in their efforts to propagate and survive. We learn of the patterns of evolution for this plant family. Then, when we are well able to appreciate the rarity and value of these plants, we are treated to specific descriptions and beautiful illustrations of each.

This volume belongs in the library of serious botanists and plant lovers, but it is also accessible to those with far less plant knowledge. It is a gem to be treasured.

Reviewed by Lucy Warren

THE GARDEN MAKERS: The Great Tradition of Garden Design from 1600 to the Present Day

George Plumptre

London, Pavilion, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret VT 05053, 1997, 229 pages, color throughout, 9" x 10", softcover \$24.95

As the title indicates, this is a survey of garden design throughout several centuries. Gardens, like their owners, are all unique and individual, but by observing the similarities and differences, it is possible to determine characteristic styles and trends throughout the ages. With a concentration on British and American gardens, Mr. Plumptre introduces us to the political climates, world events, and social issues that have affected formal gardening and garden design. Each era is introduced in an overview. Specific designers and properties are discussed with their unique perspectives and contributions to acquaint us

not only with each style, but also to the eccentricities contained within that style. We benefit also, by the update of state of restoration of many of these magnificent properties.

Most home gardeners do not have an immense estate in which to work, but thorough historical backgrounding can aid us in selecting the right plant palate and design for our own architecture and landscape. Similarly we can appreciate our current options by understanding this background. A fascinating look at garden design.

Reviewed by Lucy Warren

GARDENER'S GUIDE TO GROWING IRISES

Geoff Stebbings

Portland, Timber Press, 1997, 160 pages, 79 color photos, 3 line drawings, 7 1/4" x 9 3/4", hardcover, \$29.95

IRISES: A Practical Gardening Guide

Karen Glasgow

Portland, Timber Press, 1997, 104 pages, 99 color photos, 7" x 9 3/4", softcover, \$19.95

These two new *Iris* books each have emphasis on gardening in their title, and with a few exceptions cover the same iris species. Geoff Stebbings begins with a chapter on Classification and Botany and then assigns chapters by subgenus but identifying them as commonly known: Bearded, Siberian, Pacific Coast, Water, Spuria, Stinking, and Dwarf Bulbous. He follows with chapters on cultivation, hybridizing, value in the garden and iris as cut flowers. The photos are outstanding, including eight color plates showing iris blossoms at one third their actual size. The chapter on *Iris* Relatives is interesting as it includes several genera in the Iridaceae family from South America or Africa, whereas the genus *Iris* is confined to the northern hemisphere. These relatives include *Ferraria* and *Neomarica*. This book, *Gardener's Guide to Growing Irises*, will appeal to those botanically minded and to others because the photos are sharper than in the softcover.

Karen Glasgow divides her book into rhizomatous and bulbous irises. The rhizomatous are then subdivided into bearded and beardless. Her descriptions are more detailed and the information on origin, native habitat and cultivation is included with the descriptions. The tone of the book will especially appeal to beginners.

Since both authors are writing of their own growing conditions, Stebbings from Britain and Glasgow from New Zealand, the information on cultivation can only be used with that in mind.

Reviewed by R. Cox

Sterling Press has issued three books in a new series of Dr. D. G. Hessayon's "Expert" books: *The New Lawn Expert*, *The New Rose Expert*, and *The New Vegetable & Herb Expert*. The original series was published in 1988 and were well liked because of their clear and concise style and the high quality of the illustrations and photos. They have been updated and each expanded by ten to twenty-five pages. Herbs have been added to the title of the vegetable book. Previously only sixteen herbs were included in a small chapter, now there are thirty-six of them. They are printed in full color and are \$12.95 each.

Reviewed by R. Cox



SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

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April 21, 1998

June 16, 1998

October 20, 1998

5:45 p.m.

Casa del Prado, Room 105
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Coronado Public Library

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Pres: Alice Miller 721-6884

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CARLSBAD NEWCOMERS' GARDEN GROUP

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Monthly meetings to explore local nurseries

and gardens to acclimate themselves to the area

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Call for information.

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LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB

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Pres: Lit Phan			SAN FERNANDO VALLEY IRIS SOCIETY		
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Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4792. Call 232-5762.
Deadline for May-Jun issue: Mar 15, 1998

Are you aware that each affiliate group is entitled to a free advertisement once each year? It should be "camera ready" (suitable to be sent to printer). The text should be enclosed in a border. The border must be included when measuring dimensions, which are to be 3.4 (37/16) inches wide by 2.25 (2¼) inches high. If done on a computer, please use a font that does not



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COMMUNICATIONS . . .

WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

Practical gardening advice in this issue will be found only in "Now Is the Time...", "Starting Seeds," "Growing Hydrangeas in East County," "Ground Preparation/Weed Control," and "Orchid-Lover's Coastal San Diego Garden." But this is the season of many shows and sales, so we can see plants and flowers at their best and get advice from experienced growers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You are to be congratulated for providing your readers with material written with descriptive language such as those written by C. Zinsky and "Life under Cottonwood Trees" by Cynthia Carlson in the Nov/Dec. 1997 issue.

In a world devoted to transmitting all knowledge pictorially — information confined to dull facts text-book style, it is a pleasure to find material that uses word pictures. Life under the Cottonwood was a true delight.

D. Kelley [or Keeley]

NEW COMPILATION OF KATE SESSIONS WRITINGS

Barbara Jones, an editor, longtime contributor to *California Garden*, and historian of the San Diego Floral

Association, is the editor of a soon-to-be-released, softcover book containing all Kate Sessions articles printed in *California Garden* (1909-1940) — approximately three hundred. Many plant names have changed over these years, and Ms. Jones has appended the new names to help us make practical use of Ms. Sessions' writings. The book will be for sale at our general meetings, our office, and venues in the park during the Buds 'n' Blooms event in April.

This compilation is almost ready for publication, but at press time, we do not yet have a price to quote. Call us if you would like further information, 619/232-5762, 10:00AM-3:00PM, Monday-Friday. Inquiries are welcome also from retailers and reviewers.

RECIPES

ASPARAGUS WITH PASTA

Serves four — from Robert Horwitz

30 small asparagus spears
2 cups cooked fettucini
1 clove garlic, mashed
2 tablespoons of olive oil
1 teaspoon dried oregano
2 tablespoons wine vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Snap off the butts of the asparagus spears. Steam the spears until just tender. Cut the spears into one-inch dice. Combine the oil, oregano, vinegar, mustard, garlic, salt, and pepper. Mix well. Mix together the asparagus, the pasta, and the dressing, tossing well. Serve hot or cold.

SESAME ASPARAGUS

12 asparagus spears
1 tablespoon butter
½ teaspoon sugar
2 teaspoons soy sauce
1 teaspoon sesame seeds

Trim asparagus by breaking off about one inch from the bottom. Cut the asparagus on the diagonal into one-inch pieces. Heat butter in a skillet over medium heat, add asparagus and cook about one minute, tossing so that it cooks evenly. Sprinkle with the sugar and toss, cooking about 30 seconds. Sprinkle with soy sauce and cook another 30 seconds or so. Thicker asparagus will take longer to cook than thinner pieces, so take care not to over cook. Meanwhile, heat the sesame seeds in a dry skillet over medium heat. Stir until they are light golden brown and remove from the heat. Sprinkle over the asparagus, and serve.

Thanks to the Ellen and Shepherd Ogden Family for this recipe. From "The Cook's Garden" catalog [seeds and supplies], P O Box 535, Londonderry VT 05148.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Dorothy Driscoll
Paulette Tansey
Pat Garrick
Mike Whitney
Carvill Veech
Don Boyer
Martha Rosenberg
Marie Walsh
Mary Johnson
Mary Jordan and her gang
All the participating clubs—without these wonderful people we could not have pulled off Christmas on the Prado, especially Saturday.

In Harmony Herbs & Spices



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San Diego, CA 92101-4792 (Casa del Prado, Balboa Park)
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THE DORIS WOOD COTTAGE GARDEN AND NURSERY

The Doris Wood Cottage Garden & Nursery is a one acre, "English-style" perennial garden. Paths wind through rose covered arbors and rose bordered walks. An original "canvas" of flowering plants and shrubs greets the eye at every turn. Pale yellow Scabiosa, bicolor Salvia and a rare, pink Chaste Tree are among the thousands of plants in the garden.

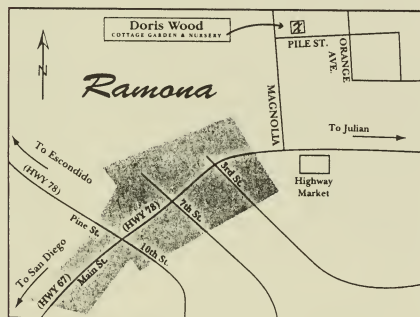
A small nursery adjacent to the garden specializes in English Roses, antique roses and select perennials/shrubs.

Hours

9:00 am - till sundown Sat & Sun, or by appointment. Open Friday through Monday during the month of July.

Admission

Admission is free. A donation box is located in the garden; proceeds help maintain the garden.



We are located 30 miles northeast of San Diego and 15 miles southeast of Escondido. The Community of Ramona has many interesting stores and restaurants to explore and enjoy.

Information
(760) 789-1543
744 Pile Street
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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CLASSES

CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK
9:30AM to 2:30PM

Bring lunch, coffee will be provided.

Call DOROTHY ELWELL 452-1397 or 232-5762

PLEASE PREREGISTER!

BULRUSH BASKET

Tuesday March 10

Made over a form made from bulrush, plait and turn
Instructor, Kathy Walsh

FEE \$20-members, \$25-nonmembers. Pay \$5.00 for
materials at time of class.

Bring clippers, bucket, and clothes pins.

FINISH YOUR BASKET

Tuesday March 17

Complete baskets you may not have finished in
previous classes

Instructors, Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh

FEE \$5.00. Bring supplies you need.

PREPARATION FOR FLOWER SHOWS

Tuesday March 24

No experience necessary.

Bring your schedule, your ideas, and we'll work on
them.

Instructor, Kathy Walsh

FEE \$15-members, \$20-nonmembers

Bring flowers, vases, clippers.

AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY FLOWER ARRANGING

Tuesdays April 14, 21, 28

Instructor, Velma West

FEE \$40 for the series

No materials provided.

CLASSES

- ☐ Bulrush Basket, Tuesday, March 10
- ☐ Finish Your Basket, Tuesday, March 17
- ☐ Preparation for Flower Shows, Tuesday, March 24
- ☐ American Contemporary Flower Arranging, April 14, 21, 28

Amount enclosed \$ Make check payable to San Diego Floral
Association. SEND TO: San Diego Floral Assoc., 2125 Park Blvd.,
San Diego CA 92101-4792

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CITY, ZIP

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION BUS TOURS

Our June trip to the new Getty Museum is full. If
you would like to go in the fall, please telephone Ann
Waters (277-5004). When enough interest is generated,
we will schedule another trip.

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

RITZ-CARLTON GARDEN TOUR

A limited number of seats is available for this trip,
which will include (1) a guided tour of the 18-acre flower
and herb gardens, which will be in full bloom
(horticultural questions encouraged) and (2) lunch at the
Terrace Restaurant.

\$70.00 members; \$73.00 others

Pickups (See below and circle pickup numbers here)

1 at 7:45AM 2 at 8:15AM 3 at 8:45AM

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

EPIPHYLLUMS AND ORCHIDS

TWO NORTH COUNTY NURSERIES are on the
agenda — one with hundreds of epiphyllums (also don't
miss the 900-title bookstore); the other has orchids of all
kinds. To top it off, we will explore the scenic model
farm, Bell Gardens, by wagon and train. There will be
spectacular floral gardens and fields of vegetables (colorful
beets, strawberries, tomatoes, etc.), and the produce stand
will have almost every vegetable imaginable. Lunch is
included.

Pickups (See below and circle pickup numbers here)

1 at 7:00AM 2 at 7:30AM 3 at 8:30AM

4 at 8:00AM Yes, these are correct times with
numbers

PICKUP POINTS

1. La Mesa: At the Park-and-Ride lot adjacent to Red
Lobster, Grossmont Center at Highway I-8
2. San Diego: At the east end of Mission Valley
Center on Camino del Este between Camino del
Rio North and Camino de la Reina
3. Carlsbad: Hadley's off Highway I-5 near Palomar
Airport Road
4. Escondido: In the Park-and Ride lot at the
intersection of Highway 78 and Broadway

NAME(S)

PHONE NUMBER(S)

Please furnish a stamped, addressed envelope, and a
separate check for each tour. Send to: San Diego Floral
Association, 2125 Park Blvd., San Diego CA 92101-4792



Catasetum saccatum. Brazil, Guyana and Peru. A warm-growing, epiphytic orchid, its pseudobulbs are three to six inches long with pleated leaves. The summer-blooming flowers grow four inches across, six to ten

on a stalk, pale green spotted with purplish brown. A trigger mechanism shoots the sticky pollen mass onto the head of the fertilizing insect for transport to the next flower.